MARVEL
5
REVENGE OF THE
COSMIC GHOST RIDER
HOPELESS
HEPBURN
FABELA
PARENTAL ADVISORY
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FRANK CASTLE HAS BEEN TO HELL AND BACK. HE'S BEEN THE PUNISHER, A GHOST RIDER, A HERALD OF GALACTUS, THE BLACK RIGHT HAND OF THANOS AND EVEN (FOR A MINUTE) A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY. BUT NOW FRANK IS GETTING BACK TO HIS ROOTS, RIDING THROUGH THE COSMOS, SEEKING THOSE THAT DESERVE PUNISHMENT!

REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER

PART 5 OF 5

THROWN BACK IN TIME, CAMMI LEARNED THAT THE COSMIC KING'S POWERS COME FROM A GALACTIC PARASITE—ONE THAT SEEKS TO TAKE THE POWER OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER AS ITS OWN!

CAMMI WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO THE PRESENT DAY IN TIME TO WATCH COSMIC GHOST RIDER DEFEAT THE COSMIC KING—BUT NOT IN TIME TO STOP FRANK FROM RECLAIMING HIS MORTAL SOUL. NOW, WITH THE TERMS OF THEIR CONTRACT VIOLATED, MEPHISTO HAS COME TO CLAIM A SOUL IN RECOMPENSE—CAMMI'S!

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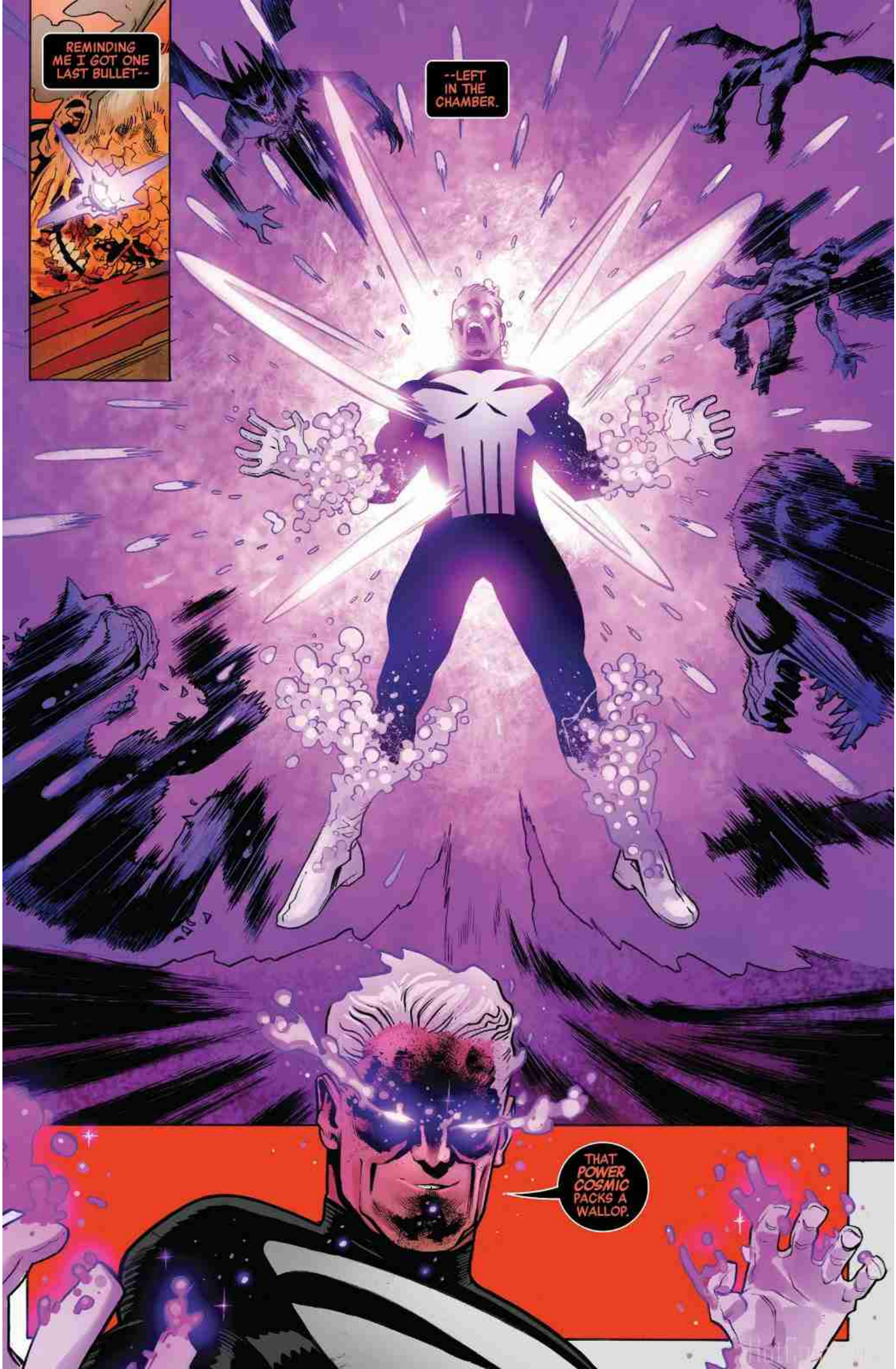
NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME TO TRY TO GET MY OWN SOUL BACK.
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
NOOOOO!
ALWAYS IS.
BUT I SURE AS HELL TOOK THE DAMNED THING WHEN COSMIC KING OFFERED IT UP.

AND THERE'S CAMMI, PAYING MY PRICE.
FRAAANK!
DON'T WASTE YOUR ECTOPLASM, KID.

GAAAAAAH!

YOUR BOY IS MORTAL NOW.

CAMMI!
GHOST RIDERS MAKE HELLFIRE LOOK COOL.
HUMAN BEINGS JUST BURN.
HE'S FRANK CASTLE!
DID YOU THINK BURNING WAS GONNA STOP HIM?!
I DID... BUT IT'S NOT MY SKIN IN THE GAME.
LET THE CHIPS FALL AS THEY MAY.
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I FELT LIKE THIS.
SEARING PAIN.
BRINK OF DEATH.
THAT STUBBORN SURVIVAL INSTINCT KEEPING ME CONSCIOUS.


REMINDING ME I GOT ONE LAST BULLET--
--LEFT IN THE CHAMBER.
THAT POWER COSMIC PACKS A WALLOP.

SO WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO NOW? TORTURE ME?
YOU ARE AN INNOCENT CHILD. WHAT POSSIBLE JOY COULD I GET FROM TORTURING YOU?
WHY IS EVERYBODY ALWAYS CALLING ME--
JOKING, OF COURSE. I'M A DEMON. TORTURE IS DELIGHTFUL. ALWAYS.
BUT OUR LAWS ARE QUITE STRICT. MY ROLE HERE IS SIMPLY TO FERRY YOU TO AND FRO.
RIGHT.
SO YOU'RE JUST THE REAL DEVIL'S LITTLE B--
THERE IS NO DEVIL REALER THAN ME.
SURE.
I WILL DEVOUR YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS, YOU ROTTING MAGGOT-FILLED HUSK.
YES.
SCARY.
YOU JUST TOLD ME YOU CAN'T, THOUGH.
=SIGH=
TOUCHÉ.

HERE WE ARE, LOATHSOME CHILD.
ROCK BOTTOM.
HOME SWEET HOME.
YOU LIVE HERE?
NO. BUT NOW YOU DO.
WHAT DO YOU KEEP IN THERE?
LOOPHOLES, TECHNICALITIES AND BIG ROLLS OF RED TAPE.
AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT SORT OF HELL.
OR SO I'M TOLD.

SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE ON VIOLENCE.
SENDING EVIL DOWN TO HELL.
AT THE END OF MY BARREL OR BLADE.
PANDEMONIUM.
BUT NOW THAT I'M DOWN HERE WITH 'EM...
...I HAVE NO INTEREST IN A FIGHT.
NOT HERE TO PUNISH.
GOT NO TIME FOR EVIL.
GRR...
GGRWL...
RELAX. JUST PASSING THROUGH.
GRRRR...
BUT AS YOU MIGHT'VE GUESSED...

...EVIL'S GOT TIME FOR ME.
NOW, THIS MIGHT BE PERSONAL.
CRISPY CRITTERS I COOKED BACK WHEN, COMING HOME TO ROOST.
OR JUST A PACK OF DEVIL DOGS AFTER FRESH MEAT.
DON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHICH. LIKE MOST THINGS...
...THE ONLY WAY OUT--
C'MON THEN.
--IS THROUGH.

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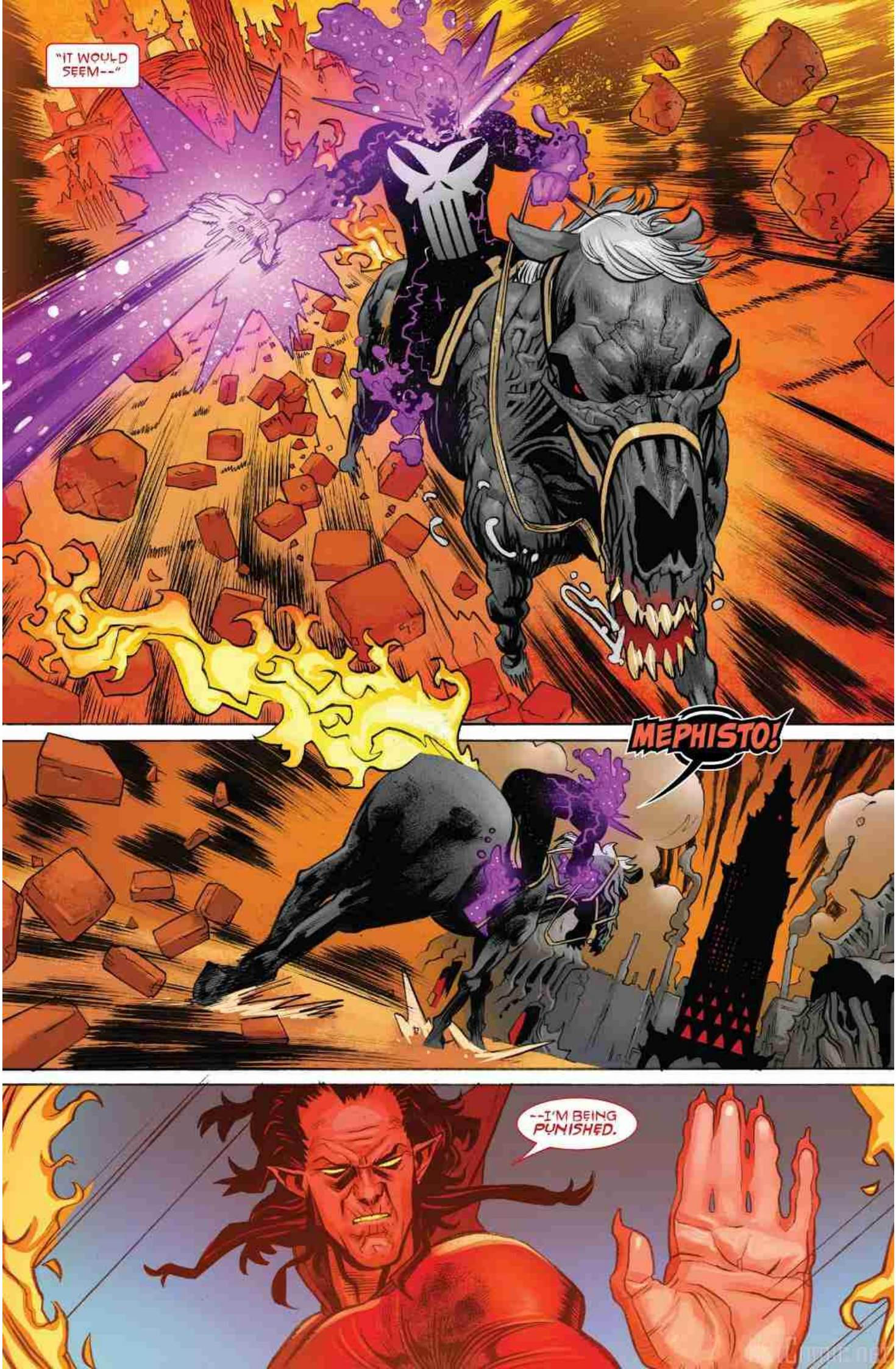
HOTEL INFERNO, LAS VEGAS.
ALSO HELL...SORT OF. IT'S A WHOLE THING.
SLRRRRRP
MAKE IT STOP! MAKE IT STOP! MAKE IT STOP!
PLEEEAASE!
SHUT UP.
TOOM
TOOM
OH!
THANK!
GOD!
THAT'S NOT GOD.
TOOM
OR MAN OR EARTHLY BEAST.
TOOM
AND IT'S NOT RHYTHMIC ENOUGH FOR EDM.


"IT WOULD SEEM--"
MEPHISTO!
--I'M BEING PUNISHED.

BETTER SADDLE UP, DEMON!
KREEEESH
I'M COMING FOR YOU!

WHERE IS SHE?! WHERE'S CAMMI?
SHE'S DEAD, FRANK. RIP A GIRL'S SOUL OUT, YOU LEAVE BEHIND A CORPSE.
I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU, DEVIL!
HER SOUL!
GIVE IT TO ME!
FOOOOOOSH
LOOK AT YOU. BURNING UP. SUPERNOVA.
LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO THROW DOWN.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE IN HELL.
NOK NOK
AND I'M IN LAS VEGAS.
IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO BRIDGE THAT GAP, YOU'LL HAVE TO CALM DOWN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO BEHAVE.

GOOD BOY.
GIVE ME THE GIRL.
THINK IT THROUGH, CASTLE.
WHAT DO I WANT WITH THAT KID'S SOUL?
SHE'S BAIT. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
MEANT TO REEL BACK IN THE BADDEST GHOST RIDER WE EVER HOOKED.
A DIRTY POOL NEGOTIATION TACTIC THAT WOULD'VE WORKED ON ANYBODY... BUT YOU.
I DON'T FOLLOW.
YOU BEAT SNAG, MAN. OUT-HUSTLED THE HUSTLER.
GOT YOURSELF A NEW LEASE ON LIFE. NOT A PUNISHABLE SIN TO YOUR NAME.
I WAS BANKING ON YOU KILLING YOURSELF TO GET DOWN TO SEE ME.
BUT THANKS TO THAT POWER COSMIC, YOU JUST PARACHUTED IN.
BOOTS ON THE GROUND, STOMPING BRIMSTONE MUDHOLES.
I'VE GOT NOTHING AT ALL TO WORK WITH.

HRRK!
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, MEPHISTO?! WHERE'S THE GIRL?
LISTEN TO THE WORDS. CAMMI'S AN INNOCENT.
KOFF SAME AS YOU.
SHE'S IN THE PIT FOR NOW *KOFF* ON A TECHNICALITY, BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD HER.
IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU, PANDEMONIUM CONTRACT LAW. IRONCLAD.
POOF
SHE'LL WAKE UP, THEN? LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED?
WELL... NO. DEAD IS DEAD, FRANK.
BUT THAT GOLDEN ELEVATOR RIDES ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.
DON'T PLAY WITH ME, DEMON!
DON'T PRETEND YOU CAN'T BRING HER BACK.
I MEAN... I COULD. OF COURSE I COULD.
BUT FOR WHAT IT WOULD COST YOU...
DON'T CARE.
BE SMART FOR ONCE IN YOUR OBNOXIOUSLY LONG LIFE, FRANK.
YOU'D BE SPENDING ETERNITY TO BUY HER THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
INNOCENCE IS FLEETING.
FOREVER IS FOREVER.

THE RUINS OF SQUAL.
GO ON, GET IN THERE.
WAKE UP.
HUFFF!
FRAAANK!
HEY, YOU.
HI.

WHAT'D I...MISS?
NOT A WHOLE LOT.
BUT... YOUR SOUL...
BACK TO NORMAL IS ALL.
GOD, YOU'RE STUPID.
WHY ARE YOU SO STUPID?
CAREFUL, YOU'LL BURN YOURSELF.
DON'T CARE.
MEPHISTO TRIED TO WARN ME.
HRRRGLL...
EVEN AS HE WAS SETTING HIS HOOK.
KNEW DAMNED WELL I WOULDN'T LISTEN...BUT HE SAID IT OUT LOUD.

IT COST ME ETERNITY--
--BUT I WAS ONLY BUYING THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
AAAAAGH!
NO! NO! NO! CAMMI!
I KILLED THE COSMIC KING.
I MURDERED THE HOST.
BUT THAT EVIL INSIDE, THAT ANCIENT PARASITE IS A PATIENT SORT.
LYING IN WAIT.
LOOKING FOR A SOUL TO STEAL.
WANTED MINE AND THE POWER THAT COMES WITH IT.
WOULD'VE USED IT TO BURN UP THE COSMOS.

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INSTEAD, IT'S BURNING UP MY FRIEND.
STEALING THAT INNOCENCE I FOUGHT SO HARD TO PROTECT.
AND IT'S MY FAULT.
ALL MY FAULT.
I'M SORRY, KID.
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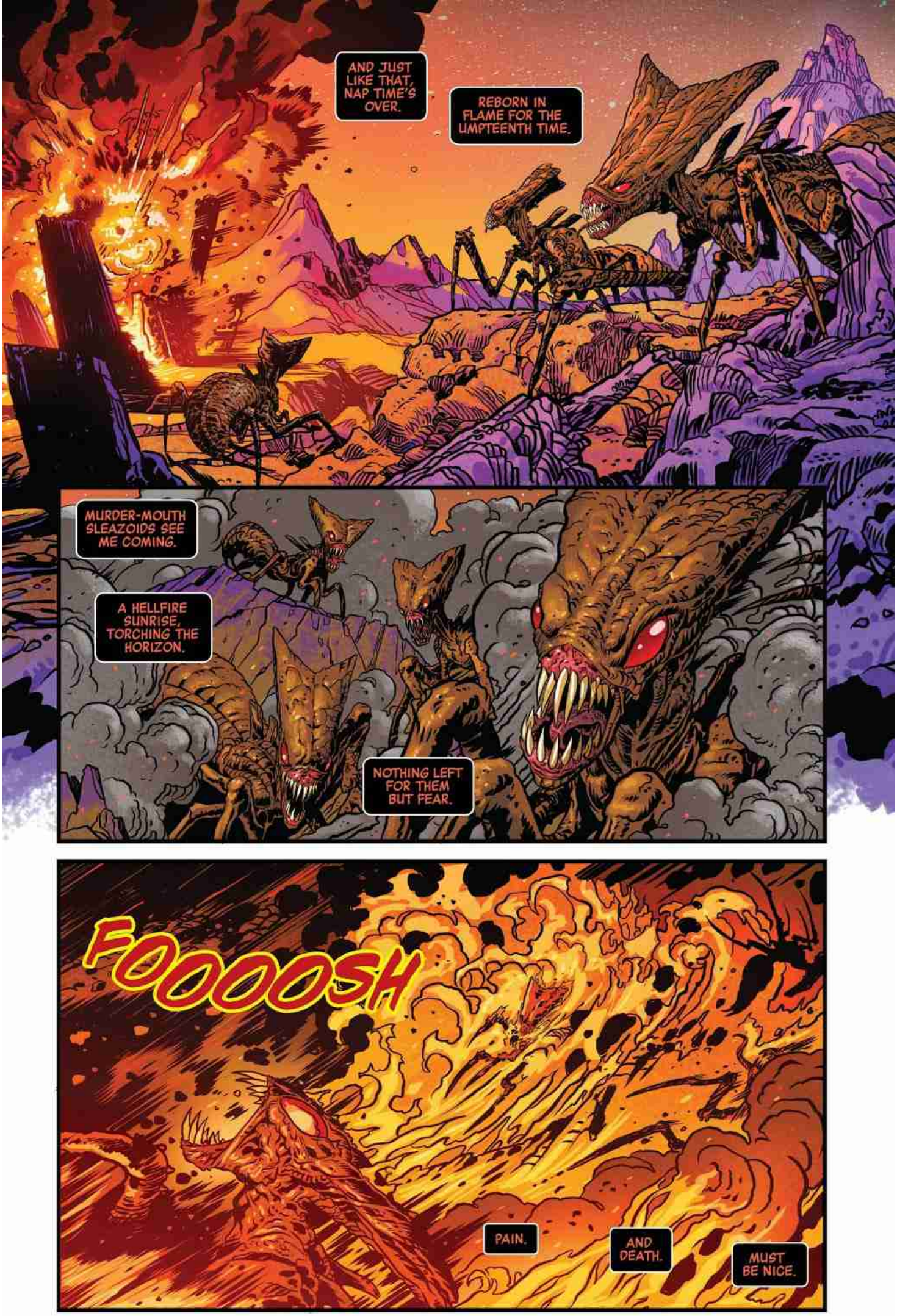
I'M SO SORRY.
MONTHS LATER.
KNNNCH
DO BROOD SLEAZOIDS EVEN HAVE SOULS?
I'LL BE DAMNED.
GUESS THEY DO.


AND JUST LIKE THAT, NAP TIME'S OVER.
REBORN IN FLAME FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME.
MURDER-MOUTH SLEAZOIDS SEE ME COMING.
A HELLFIRE SUNRISE, TORCHING THE HORIZON.
NOTHING LEFT FOR THEM BUT FEAR.
FOOOOSH
PAIN.
AND DEATH.
MUST BE NICE.

BUT I'M THE COSMIC @#$% GHOST RIDER.
THERE'S MORE EVIL OUT HERE THAN THERE WAS THIS TIME YESTERDAY.
INCLUDING A REAL GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
CALL IT A MISSION. CALL IT OBSESSION. CALL IT A CURSE.
CALL IT WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT.
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
THE END.

ZONE